- The Infrastructure Coordination Committee, reviews the coal production and supply to thermal power stations in the country every month.
- A sub-group headed by the Joint Secretary in the Department of Coal, every week reviews and resolves the problems of coal supply to thermal power stations.
- Coal is being imported to supplement the augment supplies from indigenous sources.
- New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining.
- Streamlined procedure by Ministry of Environment & Forests to expedite the environmental/forest clearances to pending coal mining projects.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been requested for augmentation of production of natural gas from the gas fields/wells, increasing availability of gas from domestic sources, encouraging import of gas.

Setting up a coal based power station at Mauda, Nagpur

1602. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has proposed the setting up a 1000 MW coal based power station at Mauda, Nagpur;

(b) whether despite repeated requests from Government of Maharashtra and directions by Government, NTPC has failed to prepare and submit a feasibility report since 2003;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in preparation of a feasibility report; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) In the course of identification of power projects for National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) capacity addition programme, a site near Mauda was identified in May, 2001 as one of the prospective sites in Nagpur district of Maharashtra. The work for various site-specific studies was

undertaken by NTPC in order to prepare the Feasibility Report and establish techno-economic viability of the project.

The site was identified considering its proximity to coal mines of Western Coalfields Ltd. about 150 kms. away and water from Gosikhurd Reservoir, which was under construction. Government of Maharashtra was to tie up funds for completion of Gosikhurd Dam and was to indicate firm schedule for supply of water to the project. The required confirmation was not available from Maharashtra Government.

Further, the mines identified for supply of coal to the project in Wardha Valley coalfiedls, were of very small capacities and scattered over a large area. However, Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) accorded linkage of coal for the project from lb-Valley Coalfields of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL), located about 600 kms. away. Cost of coal transportation will be about Rs.585 per tonne which results in increase in cost of power by about 45 paise/kwh. Further, the specific mining block is yet to be known.

In absence of firm schedule for supply of water to the project from Government of Maharashtra and allotment of specific coal block in Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL), the detailed examination for project viability required for preparation of Feasibility Report could not be undertaken.

Measures to enable consumers to choose power suppliers of their choice

1603. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up task force to work out ways and means of allowing consumers to choose power suppliers of their choice and trapping the surplus power generating capacity of the captive power plants to meet the shortfalls; and

(b) if so, what are the details with the time-schedule for submission of reports by the task forces and implementation of their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir. The Electricity Act, 2003 already mandates the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to introduce open access in such phases and subject to such conditions as may be specified within one year of the Act coming into force.